Two-laning of NHs across the country

296. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the poor condition of several thousand kilometres of ignored National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is working on the proposal of two-laning of all single-lane National Highways across the country on BOT basis, which are not covered under NHDP;

(d) whether Government would provide a special package for upgradation of non-NHDP stretches to create a national asset over the Eleventh Plan period;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) There is as such no ignored National Highways (NHs) in the country. The condition of the NHs is monitored on regular basis. Further, the development and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process to keep them in traffic worthy conditions and are taken up as per the availability of funds, traffic intensity and *inter-se* priority.

(c) There is no proposal of two-laning of all single-lane NHs across the country on BOT basis, which are not covered under approved phases of NHDP. However, NHDP-Phase-IV, involving upgradation of NHs to two-lane standards with paved shoulders primarily on BOT basis, is yet to be approved by the Government.

(d) to (f) The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) edorsed by the National Development Council (NDC) during its meeting held on 19.12.2007 *inter-alia* recommended that the targets for stretches other than NHDP have to be prioritised according to their importance to the national economy so that the available resources are not spread thinly among competing projects. The major targets for non-NHDP components include:

(i) Accelerated efforts to bring NHs network to a minimum of two-lane standard within the next ten years and four-laning small segments of non-NHDP stretches.

(ii) Removing existing deficiencies, like inadequate capacity, insufficient pavement thickness, etc. in the road network by strengthening the National Highway network/ improving riding quality.

Four-laning in Kerala

297. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total route in Kilometres of National Highways in Kerala;

(b) how much of that is four-laned;

(c) whether Government proposes to make the entire National Highway four-laned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time of completion?